

03060102-120

(Chauga River)

General Description

Watershed 03060102-120 is located in Oconee County and consists primarily of the **Chauga River** and its tributaries. The watershed occupies 70,768 acres of the Blue Ridge region of South Carolina. The predominant soil types consist of an association of the Pacolet-Hayesville-Madison series. The erodibility of the soil (K) averages 0.23, and the slope of the terrain averages 22.3%, with a range of 6-80%. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 93.9% forested land, 4.9% agricultural land, 0.4% water, 0.1% forested wetland, 0.4% urban land, and 0.3% barren land.

Village Creek (West Village Creek, Mountain Rest Lake) and East Village Creek (Clear Branch, Big Stakey Creek, Ores Mill Creek, Chattooga Lake, Taylor Creek) join to form the Chauga River. The river accepts drainage from Jerry Creek (Crystal Lake, Lake Becky, Oconee State Park Lake), Miller Field Branch, Coppermine Branch, Limestone Creek (Grapevine Branch), Bone Camp Creek (Sawyer Branch, Orchard Branch, Chambers Branch), Hell Hole Creek (Long Branch), and Shingle Mill Branch. Further downstream, the Chauga River accepts drainage from Hickory Flat Branch, Rhoda Branch, Mill Creek (Woodall Branch), Double Branch, Spider Valley Creek (Persimmon Branch, Laurel Creek, Sand Creek), Doran Creek, and Crooked Creek. Cedar Creek (Baker Branch) enters the river next, followed by Spy Rock Creek, Devils Fork Creek (Flint Creek), Barton Creek, Muddy Creek (Findley Branch), and Rocky Fork. The Chauga River and its tributaries from its origin to 1 mile above U.S. 76 are classified ORW, with the exception of Jerry Creek (FW).

The Chauga River then accepts drainage from Ramsey Creek (Collins Lake) and Dickson Lake. West Toxaway Creek and East Toxaway Creek join to form Toxaway Creek (Big Branch, Little Longnose Creek, Sourwood Branch, Little Toxaway Creek, Harper Pond), which flows into the Chauga River near the base of the watershed to form an arm of Lake Hartwell. The Chauga River and its tributaries from 1 mile above U.S. 76 to its confluence with the Tugaloo River are classified FW. There are a total of 177.4 stream miles and 506.1 acres of lake waters in this watershed. The upper two thirds of the watershed resides within the Sumter National Forest.

Surface Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
SV-675	BIO	ORW	CHAUGA RIVER AT S-37-193
SV-344	W	FW	CHAUGA RIVER AT S-37-34
SV-225	BIO	FW	TOXAWAY CREEK AT S-37-34

Chauga River - There are two monitoring sites along the Chauga River. At the upstream site (**SV-675**), aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data. At the downstream site (**SV-344**), aquatic life uses are also fully supported. Recreational uses are partially supported at this site due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions.

Toxaway Creek (SV-225) - Aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data.

Natural Swimming Areas

<i>FACILITY NAME</i>	<i>PERMIT #</i>
<i>RECEIVING STREAM</i>	<i>STATUS</i>
CAMP CHATUGA	37-N04
ORES MILL CREEK	ACTIVE
OCONEE STATE PARK	37-N02
JERRY CREEK	ACTIVE

NPDES Program

Active NPDES Facilities

<i>RECEIVING STREAM</i>	<i>NPDES#</i>
<i>FACILITY NAME</i>	<i>TYPE</i>
<i>PERMITTED FLOW @ PIPE (MGD)</i>	<i>COMMENT</i>
JERRY CREEK	SC0024872
SCPRT/OCONEE STATE PARK	MINOR DOMESTIC
PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 0.06	

Water Supply

<i>WATER USER (INTAKE #)</i>	<i>TOTAL PUMP. CAPACITY (MGD)</i>
<i>STREAM</i>	<i>RATED PUMP. CAPACITY (MGD)</i>
TOWN OF WESTMINSTER (S37103)	3.8
RAMSEY CREEK	1.8
TOWN OF WESTMINSTER (S37104)	8.0
CHAUGA RIVER	4.0

Growth Potential

There is a low potential for growth in this watershed, which has a large area residing within the Sumter National Forest. The steep slopes of this region would limit establishment of infrastructure and any serious growth.